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## **Abstract**

Methods and an associated apparatus for automating the funeral planning process are disclosed. Some methods involve providing a virtual funeral related transaction site to enable consumers to make selections electronically to plan a funeral without the need to visit a funeral home or interact directly with a funeral director. Some methods also involve providing a virtual funeral related transaction site to enable funeral service providers to make product selections from the offerings of suppliers where the product selections will ultimately be offered to consumers. Some methods also involve providing a predetermined set of steps that are implemented by the consumer's computer to assist the consumer in planning the funeral.